AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, lines 27-32, as set forth below:

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to SEQ ID No. 4, wherein said SEQ ID ~~is having~~ has the following sequence ~~as following:~~

~~5'GAGGTGTAATGCCTTTCCGGACCCTAGGTGGCCTT TCGGTGCTTGCACGGAACGCACCGATGCTTCCCCCT CCCCGCATGCTCGAGGCATGCTATCCGATACAGGG CCGCCGCACTAAACCGCGATCGAATTTGCCCAGGTC AGGGAACGGATATGAGCGGACGAG3'~~

5'TGGATCCGTTGACCATGAGGTGTAATGCCTTTCCG GACCCTAGGTGGCCTTTCGGTGCTTGCACGGAACGC ACCGATGCTTCCCCCTCCCCGCATGCTCGAGGCATG CTATCCGATACAGGGCCGCCGCACTAAACCGCGAT CGAATTTGCCCAGGTCAGGGAACGGATATGAGCGG ACGAGCTACTTGGTCATGGTGAACTGGGCGACGTT GATTAGGCCTCTGCGGAAGCGCTCCGCGCATCCGGT CAGATAGTGCATGAAGTTGTTGTAGACCTCTTCGGA CTGTACGGCGATGGCGCGTTCGCGGGCAGCCTGTA GGTTGGCGGCCCATGCATCGAGAGTCCGTGCGTAG TGGGAATTC 3'.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 16-22, as set forth below:

Still another embodiment of the present invention relates to the embodiment wherein DNA in the step (c) is extracted from the treated clinical specimen using a modified lysis buffer by inclusion of ingredients comprising guanidinium

isothiocyanate in a range of about 0.5-8 M, Tris.Cl pH 7.6 is in the range of about 20-100 mM, N lauryl Sarcosyl is in the range of about 0.5-2% by weight of the buffer, EDTA is in the range of about 0.1-20 mM, β-Mercaptoethanol is in the range of about 1-25 mM and ~~NH_4COOH~~ NaCl is in the ~~range~~ amount of about ~~0.3M-1M~~ 0.2M and purifying the DNA to improve the yield by thorough precipitation by organic solvents.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 23-25, as set forth below:

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to the embodiment wherein guanidinium isothiocyanate is present at about 4 M, Tris.Cl pH 7.6 is present at about 50 mM, N lauryl Sarcosyl is present at about 1% by weight of the buffer, EDTA is present at about 1mM, β-Mercaptoethanol is present at about 10mM and ~~NH_4COOH~~ NaCl is present at about ~~0.7M~~ 0.2M.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 21-27, as set forth below:

In another embodiment, ~~of~~ the present invention relates to the ~~the~~ oligonucleotide primers capable of amplification of intergenic region of SEQ ID No. 4 for detection of pathogenic Mycobacteria in clinical specimens ~~are~~, these primers being selected from the group consisting of:

a. 5' TGGATCCGTTGACCATGAGGTGTAATG 3' (SEQ ID No. 5), which is the forward primer[[.]], and

b. ~~5' GGAATTCCACTACCACGGACTCTC 3'~~

5' GGAATTCCACTACGCACGGACTCTC 3' (SEQ ID No. 6), which is the reverse primer.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 24-33 as set forth below:

A portion (200 µl) of digested and decontaminated sample was transferred to a micro centrifuge tube. To it 500 µl modified lysis buffer containing 4M guanidinium isothiocyanate, 50 mM Tris.Cl (pH 8.0), 1% N lauryl Sarcosyl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM 2-Mercaptoethanol and 0.2M[[,]] NaCl ~~was~~ were added and mixed by inverting. Tubes were incubated at 85°C with intermittent shaking for 20 min to lyse the cells. To the lysate was added 200 µl 2.5M ammonium acetate pH 7.6, mixed by inverting. Mixture was spun at 12000 g for 5 minutes. Supernatant was once extracted with phenol and chloroform. DNA was precipitated with 0.8% by volume isopropyl alcohol. Pellet was washed thoroughly with 70% ethyl alcohol, briefly air-dried and dissolved in 30 µl TE buffer (10 mM Tris.Cl pH 8.3 and 0.01mM EDTA pH 8.0[[,]]). 2 µl of this was used for PCR amplification.